



# The Distance Learner

No 2 January 2014

## Something from the news



Majella O'Donnell, wife of singer Daniel, having recently been **diagnosed** with breast cancer, decided to raise funds for Cancer **research** by having her head shaved on the "Late Late Show" on RTE. Majella, who is presently having cancer **treatment** which causes hair loss, decided that rather than wait for this to happen she would shave it off and ask the public to **donate** money to the "Irish Cancer Society". People were **encouraged** to give €4 by texting in during the show.

The **audience** at the show gave Majella a standing **ovation**.

Majella's **courage** and bravery won the hearts of the viewers and so far **in excess** of €500,000 has been donated. As Majella is **recovering** she is **delighted** with the **reaction** as she never expected to raise so much money.

### Exercises

1. Pick out the underlined words in the above and break each into syllables

Example:

diagnosed    di ag nosed    3 syllables  
Donate        don ate            2 syllables

Word	break	syl
Treatment		
Audience	aud i ence	3
Courage		
Reaction		
Recovering		

## 2. Many words end with the string

### ment

Apartment,	cement,
Department	management
Enjoyment	basement,
compliment	development
Movement	garment

Can you find the correct word ending in **ment** in each sentence below:

- The soccer team is under new \_\_\_\_\_.
- The builders use \_\_\_\_\_ when building the walls.
- They are moving into a new \_\_\_\_\_.
- The \_\_\_\_\_ is a room under the house.
- The Minister is in charge of the \_\_\_\_\_ of Finance.

### 3. Match the words of the same meaning

Donate	loud clapping and cheering
Audience	find out the cause of
Reaction	more than
Ovation	viewers
Excess	to give a gift of
Diagnosed	act because of something

### 4. Look at the word **Encouraged**.

See how many smaller words can be made using the same letters

Examples:    rage            corn            can

\_\_\_\_\_    \_\_\_\_\_    \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_    \_\_\_\_\_    \_\_\_\_\_

### 5. When we want to write the opposite of a word, we use a prefix such as

**dis un mis** before the word

Put the correct prefix before the following:  
**disobey mislead**    \_\_\_aware    \_\_\_agree

\_\_\_able    \_\_\_understood    \_\_\_happy    \_\_\_read

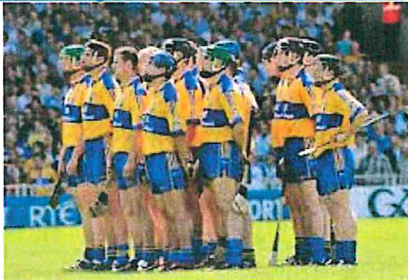
\_\_\_expected    \_\_\_behave    \_\_\_lucky    \_\_\_print

\_\_\_healthy    \_\_\_believable    \_\_\_like

# The Distant Learner

No 3 Feb 2014

## Something from the news



If there's one thing Clare people love more than traditional music, its hurling and for Clare people all over the world 2013 was the stuff dreams are made of.

Beaten by Cork in the early stage of the Hurling Championship, Clare went on to beat Laois, Galway, Wexford and Limerick before reaching the All Ireland Final where they again met their old rivals Cork.

However the story was not to end here as after a spectacular game of skill and speed the final ended in a draw, with the replay fixed for 3 weeks later on a Saturday evening under flood lights. Once again Croke park was full. In one of the greatest finals ever played both teams played with pure passion and courage giving it everything but it was Clare who became 2013 All Ireland Winners and brought the "Liam McCarthy cup" home to the "Banner County".

Clare is a young team with more than half of them under 21 and all of them playing in their very first All Ireland.

Each of them is now a household name. One such player is 19 year old Shane O Donnell, who scored 3 goals and 3 points in the final and who revealed that he only found out he was playing, an hour before the match started. Another 19 year old, Tony Kelly, who not only has an All Ireland Senior medal, 2 all Ireland Under 21 medals, an All star award but was also given the title "Young player of the Year" and "Hurler of the year"

Despite winning all these awards, their love of hurling and passion for the game means that already these players are all looking forward to 2014 and starting the hurling season all over again

### Exercises

1. Pick out the underlined words in the news item and break each into syllables

Example:

Championship    cham    pion    ship                    3 syllables

Word	break	syll
Spectacular	spec tac u lar	4
traditional		
courage		
despite		
Household		
revealed		
Despite		
senior		

2. Many words end in the string age

Encourage    cabbage    message  
Page            image        stage  
Village        luggage    rage

Fill in the blanks below using words ending in age

- a. My favourite dinner is bacon and \_\_\_\_\_
- b. Send me a text \_\_\_\_\_
- c. The singer performed on a big \_\_\_\_\_
- d. The Post Office was in the centre of the \_\_\_\_\_
- e. Put all the \_\_\_\_\_ in the boot of the car.

3. Match the words of the same meaning

- Courage
  - revealed
  - senior
  - passion
  - household name
  - spectacular
- well known  
 great love  
 amazing  
 to make known  
 highest level  
 bravery

# NALA Distance Learner

Edition 4 March 2014

## Brian O'Driscoll



On Saturday 15th March 2014

Brian O'Driscoll played his last ever match in the Irish Jersey and he certainly did it in style! In a game played with fearless **determination** Ireland won the "Six Nations Championship" beating France in the tightest of scores 22 points to 20.

This was a fairytale ending to the career of the man **described** as the greatest Irish rugby player ever.

Fellow team mates have described Brian

O'Driscoll as a leader who **encourages** others to want to give their best. This could be seen on Saturday as each player seemed to want to win more for Brian than for themselves.

In a fierce battle Ireland scored 3 tries to France's 2, with Jonathan Sexton suffering a **concussion** towards the end, from which he thankfully recovered soon afterwards.

This was Ireland's first victory in France since 2000, the game in which Brian first showed what he was **capable** of, scoring 3 tries that day against France.

Dublin born Brian or BOD as he is known has had a rugby career with Leinster and Ireland for 15 years playing in 141 international games. During this time his work effort and **dedication** to the game has been **massive**, winning two "Six Nations" 4 "Triple crowns" and the "Grand Slam" in 2009.

He has been captain of the Irish team more times than any other player.

He was a member of the Irish and British Lions tours on four **occasions**, only the third player in 125 years to receive this honour.

What makes him a favourite with fellow team mates, rugby followers and the Irish people in general is his quiet manner and ever ready smile. He is calm in victory as well as in defeat.

Brian is married to Amy Huberman who is an actress and they have a one year old daughter Sadie, who is the apple of her daddy's eye! There has been a lot of talk about what Brian will do now as he hangs up his boots. He has been slow to talk about his plans so far but whatever path he chooses it is believed rugby will still play a big part in his life but from now on not as a player.

We wish him and his family the best of luck in the future and one thing is certain we haven't heard the last of him.

### Exercises

1. Pick out the underlined words in the story and break each into syllables

Example:

Determination	de ter min a tion	5 syllables
Described	Des crib ed	3 syllables
Concussion	Con cus sion	3 syllables
Encourage		
Capable		
Dedication		
Massive		
Occasions		

2. Many words end with the letter string **sion**

mansion pension extension television  
collision occasion confusion decision

Fill in the blanks using the above **sion** words

- The lotto winner built a big \_\_\_\_\_
- When you retire you get a \_\_\_\_\_
- They built an \_\_\_\_\_ to the house
- Take your time when making a \_\_\_\_\_
- I like to watch the soaps on \_\_\_\_\_
- There was a \_\_\_\_\_ between two cars
- Her party was a great \_\_\_\_\_
- Follow the instructions to avoid \_\_\_\_\_

3. Match words of the same meaning

- |                 |                             |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| . Capable       | to give a lot of time to it |
| . Massive       | well able for it            |
| . Concussion    | not giving up               |
| . Dedication    | head injury                 |
| . Determination | very big                    |

# Nala Distant Learner

*Dear Reader*

*Welcome to our current edition of the “Nala Distant Learner”.*

*We hope you are enjoying the stories and puzzles.*

*We would like to hear from you, so if you have any ideas or topics you would like us to cover in the future please contact us by post, email or text below*

*Kind regards*

*Nala Distance Learning Team*

## Competition Time

**If you would like a chance to win a €25 Easons Book Voucher  
Please answer the following:**

**What is the name of Brian O’Driscoll’s daughter?**

**Please send your answer and name**

**By email: [dls@nala.ie](mailto:dls@nala.ie)**

**or**

**By text: 087 1984228**

**or**

**By post: Competition,  
NALA,  
Sandford Lodge,  
Sandford Place,  
Ranelagh  
Dublin 6**

# NALA Distance Learner

April 2014



President Michael D Higgins and his wife Sabina have just returned from a 4 day visit to Britain as guests of Queen Elizabeth and the British people. This was a very **important** visit as it was the first time an Irish head of state had made an **official** visit to Britain. It was a proud day for the **generations** of Irish living in Britain.

It has been widely agreed that Sabina with her big smile and warm **personality** certainly won the hearts of all those she met.

Her elegant outfits, hats and gloves all by Irish **designers** have brought the world's attention to the Irish Fashion **Industry**.

Born in Co Galway on the Mayo Border, Sabina moved to Dublin when she was 18, to work in the civil service. Her love of **theatre** led her to study acting with Deirdre O Connell, who was later to become her best friend. Together they set up the "Focus Theatre group" in Dublin. Deirdre later married the late Luke Kelly, singer with the band "The Dubliners".

In 1974 Sabina married Michael D Higgins. Later they moved to Galway where for many years he was a Labour Party TD for Galway West. While bringing up their 4 children she still kept up her interest in acting. She was also very active in the National Parents **associations** which encourage parents to take an interest in their child's **education**.

In 2011 Michael D Higgins, husband, father, poet, lecturer and **politician**, who grew up on a small farm in Co Clare, was elected president of Ireland. He got the highest number of votes ever received. Both Michael D and Sabina are proud Irish people with a great respect for everything Irish, the people who live here, the language, arts, sport and music. We wish them well as they continue to **represent** us proudly at home and abroad.

## What happened in this month.....?

1000 years ago this month the famous "Battle of Clontarf" took place. The high king of Ireland Brian Boru fought and beat the Vikings in a bloody battle in which he himself was killed.

98 years ago this month a group of Irish men led by Padraig Pearse, held a fierce battle in Dublin against the British who ruled Ireland at that time. They were no match for the strong British army and were captured and later put to death.

This was known as the 1916 Easter Rising.

This month marks the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Hillsborough stadium disaster. 96 people were killed and 766 were injured when overcrowding on the viewing terraces caused a major crush at the 1989 FA cup final between Liverpool and Nottingham Forest. 79 of those killed were under the age of 30.

40 years ago this month, a band from Sweden, came to the world's attention when they won the Eurovision song contest with the song "Waterloo".

ABBA went on to become one of the most successful bands of all time, selling over 300 million albums. They split up in 1982.

It has been said that they recently turned down an offer of 1 billion dollars to come together for one final tour.

20 years ago this month saw the beginning of 100 days of Genocide in the African country of Rwanda. Genocide is the planned murder and torture of a large group of people. It is thought that between half and 1 million Tutsi people living in Rwanda were murdered between April and July 1994.

### Match the words of the *same meaning*

- |                |                      |
|----------------|----------------------|
| . industry     | member of government |
| . associations | planner              |
| . politician   | perform on a stage   |
| . theatre      | business             |
| . represent    | organisations        |
| . designer     | stand in for         |

May 2014 Edition 6

## One Direction in Ireland



Pic courtesy onedirectionmusic.com

Croke Park rocked last weekend when over 3 nights, more than 240,000 fans arrived to see the boy band “One Direction”.

Most of these were girls between the ages of 8 and 18 and all waving flags and dressed in **colourful** hats and t shirts with their love for “1D” proudly written in large print.

It was far from being a warm summer weekend as the wind rose and rain fell, however the weather did not dampen their spirits.

The crowd roared, clapped and cheered loudly as the 5 boys sang one hit song after another. Niall, Liam, Louis, Zayn and Harry **performed** on stage for almost 2 hours. A fire works display during the show added to the **excitement**.

But the loudest screams were for the only Irish member of the band, the boy from Mullingar, Niall Horan.

20 year old Niall said it was a dream come true to play in Croke Park in front of their biggest audience yet.

The crowds went wild when Niall came out on stage wearing the green Irish rugby jersey and he told them that “Irish fans are the best fans in the world”. His parents, brother and close friends were at all 3 concerts.

He **recalled** that it was just 4 years since he had entered “X Factor” the talent show that brought the 5 boys together as a band.

In that short time they have toured the world and are said to be one of the world’s richest bands with earnings between them, reported to be more than £25 million. They have **supported** many **charities** and have promised to donate £200,000 from this tour to a cancer research charity.

Here in Ireland we are very proud of Niall and we wish him and the other 4 band members many years of success as they continue to live the dream of young **musicians** and singers everywhere.

### Exercises

1. The words below have all been broken into parts/syllables. Say each part and then try to spell the word by writing the parts on a separate sheet.

Word	Breakdown	No. syllables
direction	di rec tion	3
colourful	col our ful	3
performed	per form ed	3
excitement	ex cite ment	3
recalled	re call ed	3
supported	sup port ed	3
charity	char it y	3
musicians	mus i cians	3

2. When we talk about someone’s job we sometimes use the string **cian** at the end  
Examples:

musician      electrician      optician  
beautician      magician      politician

Fill in the blanks using the above words

- I will visit the \_\_\_\_\_ for an eye test.
- The \_\_\_\_\_ pulled a rabbit out of the hat.
- I asked the \_\_\_\_\_ to fix my lights.
- The \_\_\_\_\_ will run in the election.
- The man playing the piano is a good \_\_\_\_\_.
- The girl will go to a \_\_\_\_\_ to get her make up done.

3. Match words that might have the **same meaning**

- |             |                      |
|-------------|----------------------|
| • recalled  | gave help to         |
| • donate    | skill                |
| • dampen    | entertained on stage |
| • performed | to give              |
| • supported | remembered           |
| • talent    | make less exciting   |

4. See how many smaller words you can make using the letters in the words “ **One Direction**”

tired      red      end      \_\_\_\_\_      \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_      \_\_\_\_\_      \_\_\_\_\_      \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_      \_\_\_\_\_      \_\_\_\_\_      \_\_\_\_\_

June 2014 .Edition No 7

## National Tidy Towns Competition



(Pic:Preparing for Tidy towns).

In towns and villages all over Ireland, locals are busy painting, planting and litter picking in an effort to score high points in the **annual** Tidy Towns Competition.

The **competition** which has been running since 1958 is more popular than ever with 848 entries this year.

Local **community** groups made up of people of all ages, start preparing for the competition as early as January. Many of them will spend 3 or 4 nights a week painting public buildings and walls, planting gardens and hanging baskets and cutting grass. Some groups have even started community gardens growing their own **vegetables**.

Everyone gives their time freely in an effort to make their community a better place to live, work and visit.

Judges pay two visits to each and every village and town during the months of June, July and August. Marks are then awarded for **tidiness**, litter free public parks and streets and well looked after gardens and buildings.

Winners are **announced** in September. Prizes are given for the best kept town or village in each county. From these, one overall winner is picked. In 2013 Moynalty in Co Meath was named "Ireland's Tidiest Village".

Killarney in Co Kerry received second place. Everyone agrees that getting involved in a Tidy Towns group can also be fun and is a great way to get to know people in your area.

Getting out and about and playing even a small part creates good community spirit and **encourages** pride in where you live. It also means towns and villages in Ireland are **beautiful** places for the rest of us to visit.

We wish every success to all the entrants in this year's competition.

### Exercises

1. The words below have all been broken into parts/syllables. Say each part and then try to spell the word by writing the parts on a separate sheet.

Word	breakdown	No. of syllables
annual	ann u al	3
competition	com pet i tion	4
community	comm u nit y	4
vegetables	veg e tables	3
tidiness	tid i ness	3
announced	ann ounc ed	3
encourages	en cour ages	3
beautiful	beau ti ful	3

2. Match the words that have the **same meaning**.

- annual
  - competition
  - community
  - announced
  - encourage
  - create
  - judge
  - public building
- people living in same area
  - made a statement
  - make
  - every year
  - give your opinion
  - can be used by everyone
  - give help to
  - contest

3. Many words end in the string **able**

vegetable	comfortable	reliable
dependable	suitable	understandable
cable	unable	stable

- a. A carrot is a \_\_\_\_\_.
- b. A babysitter needs to be very \_\_\_\_\_.
- c. A warm coat is not \_\_\_\_\_ on a hot day.
- d. He tripped over the electric \_\_\_\_\_.
- e. The couch is very \_\_\_\_\_.
- f. My car is old and not very \_\_\_\_\_.
- g. Her fear of dogs is \_\_\_\_\_ after she was followed by one.
- h. I was \_\_\_\_\_ to go out as I was sick.
- i. The horse was in the \_\_\_\_\_.

4. Using the letters in the word "Competition" Try to make as many small words as you can

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



# The Distance Learner

July 2014 Edition no.8

## Exercises

### In the news this month.....

This month the 2014 Soccer World Cup in Brazil came to an end with Germany beating Argentina by a goal scored in extra time. So ended a month of daily matches played in **intense** heat. Fans of soccer were in heaven as the world's top players lined out for their countries. However it was not without **incident**. Luis Suarez, from Uruguay was caught biting another player during a match against Italy. He was given a 4 month ban from playing and sent home early from the world cup. Brazil's star footballer, Neymar, received a **serious** injury when another player kned him in the back. He was unable to play in the semi final against Germany. As he was Brazil's top scorer Germany beat them on a score of 7 goals to 1.

This month, Dublin west TD and minister for social **protection**, Joan Burton was **elected** leader of the Labour Party. She is the first woman ever to hold the **position** of leader. The 65 year old was first elected as a TD in 1992. Ms Burton said she was delighted to be leader and Tánaiste and has promised to tackle the problems of lack of housing and the health service as her main **concerns**.

First he was coming for 2 concerts, then it was 5 and now he's not coming at all! Country and western singer Garth Brooks will now not play any concert in Ireland, as **permission** was refused for 5 concerts. The singer refused to perform for any less than 5 shows as he said he didn't want to **disappoint** his fans. 400, 000 very **anxious** fans held their breath as meetings and phone calls went over and back in a last minute effort to save the shows. Even the Taoiseach tried to help. Dublin was to be his only European venue which meant nearly 80,000 fans had booked flights from around the world, to come to see him in Ireland.

1. The words below have all been broken into parts/syllables. Say each part and then try to spell the word by writing the parts on a separate sheet.

Word	breakdown	no, syllables
intense	in ten se	3
incident	in cid ent	3
serious	ser i ous	3
protected	pro tect ed	3
elected	el ect ed	3
position	pos i tion	3
concerns	con cerns	2
permission	per mis sion	3
disappoint	dis app oint	3
anxious	anx ious	2

2. A compound word is a word that is made up of 2 or more words joined together.  
Examples: anyone, somebody, inside, together

Match a word from each row to make a compound word

		<u>word</u>
• every	cause	Everybody
• some	self	-----
• moon	ball	-----
• foot	port	-----
• be	out	-----
• an	give	-----
• him	body	-----
• for	light	-----
• with	other	-----
• air	one	-----

3. Match words of the *same meaning*

- |              |                             |
|--------------|-----------------------------|
| • permission | very important              |
| • protection | fierce                      |
| • venue      | event                       |
| • disappoint | where it takes place        |
| • serious    | keeping something safe      |
| • intense    | allowed to happen           |
| • incident   | failed to meet expectations |

August 2014. Edition no. 9

## Rory on top of the world.



Pic. courtesy EPA

Rory McIlroy, the 25 year old from Holywood in Co. Down, is the current world number 1 golfer after winning 3 major **tournaments** in the past month. He shot to fame in 2011 when at only 22, he won his first major in the U.S. Open.

He is the first **European** to win three major titles and joins players such as Tiger Woods and Jack Nicklaus, in winning 3 majors before reaching the age of 25.

It is believed that McIlroy will become Ireland's richest **sportsperson** with earnings this year thought to reach 60 million dollars.

In the past month alone, he has won nearly 5 million in prize money. Three years ago he signed a **sponsorship** deal with the sports company NIKE. It is thought that this is worth over 7 million dollars every year.

Earlier this year McIlroy hit the headlines for a very **different** reason when he called off his wedding to tennis star, Caroline Wozniacki, the day after the wedding **invitations** had been sent out.

The only child in his family it has been said that McIlroy is playing golf since he was 2 years of age. His father, also a keen golfer, often brought his son, while still a toddler, to watch him play. It has been said that his father saw that the young Rory had a talent from a very young age. Both parents worked hard to pay for coaching lessons. His dad is said to have bet £50, when Rory was still only a child, on him winning a title before he was 25 and he wasn't **disappointed!**

Rory's next big event will be when he is a member of the European team playing in the "Ryder Cup", in late September, one of the biggest golfing events of the year.

We wish Rory many more years of success in his golfing career

## Exercises

1. Pick out the underlined words in the news item and break each into syllables.

Example:

Tournament      tour na ment      3 syllables

Word	Breakdown	syllables
European	Eur o pean	3
sportsperson	sports per son	3
sponsorship	spon sor ship	3
different	diff er ent	3
invitations	in vit a tions	4
disappointed	dis ap point ed	4

2. Match the words of the *same meaning*:

- tournament
  - sponsorship
  - earnings
  - coaching
  - current
  - called off
- cancelled
  - income
  - training
  - competition
  - funding given
  - at the present time

3. When adding the suffix "ing" to words ending in e, you drop the e.

Example: save : saving, take : taking

Add "ing" to the following words

type	_____	walk	_____
care	_____	talk	_____
love	_____	drive	_____
feel	_____	cycle	_____
text	_____	sleep	_____
move	_____	make	_____

4. Write a word that means the *opposite* of these;

- win \_\_\_\_\_
- wealthy \_\_\_\_\_
- skinny \_\_\_\_\_
- fast \_\_\_\_\_
- empty \_\_\_\_\_
- heavy \_\_\_\_\_
- right \_\_\_\_\_
- strong \_\_\_\_\_
- wet \_\_\_\_\_

# The Distance Learner

Edition 10 Sept 2014

## The Ice Bucket Challenge

The latest craze to reach us from our friends in America is the “Ice bucket challenge” and it has **certainly** taken Ireland by storm.

If you are one of the lucky people to be **nominated**, you must allow somebody pour an ice cold bucket of water over your head! You, in turn, name 3 more people to do the same. You must then post a video of yourself on the internet as **evidence** that you completed the **challenge**.

The reason behind this madness is to raise **awareness** and make money for the “Motor Neuron Disease” **association**.

Each person who completes the challenge donates money to the charity and **encourages** all their friends to donate also.

Motor neuron disease is an illness that affects the body’s nerves and muscle movements. At the moment there is no cure for it. So far over €1million has been raised by the ice bucket challenge in Ireland. This money will go towards special **equipment** and nursing care and will also support the families of people with the illness, so that they can be cared for at home.

The man who inspired people to take up the challenge is Pete Frates, a young American baseball player who developed the disease in 2010, while at the top of his career. At this stage he can no longer walk or talk.

His bravery in dealing with his illness has touched the hearts of people all over the world. Well known politicians, actors, singers and sportspeople have all supported the cause, posting videos of themselves on the internet, dripping wet but enjoying the challenge.

Here in Ireland Daithi O Se did it while presenting the “Rose of Tralee” on TV.

### Daithi O Se on the Rose of Tralee



Pic :courtesy Independent.ie

## Exercises

1. Pick out the **underlined** words in the news item and break each into syllables.

Example:

certainly    cer tain ly    3 parts/syllables

Word	breakdown	syllables
nominated	nom in at ed	4
evidence	ev id ence	3
challenge	chall enge	2
awareness	a ware ness	3
association	ass o ci a tion	5
encourages	en cour age s	4
equipment	e quip ment	3

2. Match the words of the **same meaning**

- nominate . proof
- evidence . things needed to do a job
- challenge . to suggest someone
- awareness . return to health
- equipment . dare someone to do a task
- cure . know about something

3. **Plurals** (more than one).

When you want to write the plural of a word:

- For most words you just add “s”  
car/cars, arm/arms
- For words ending in x,s,sh or ch add “es”  
bus/buses, bush/bushes, fox/foxes lunch/lunches
- Words ending in y  
if a vowel before the y add “s”  
(Vowels are: a,e,i,o,u)  
example: boy/boys, day/days  
If there’s a consonant before the y  
change y to i and add es  
example: fly/flies, lady/ladies, pony/ponies
- Words ending in f or fe, change the f to “v” and add “es”. example: wife/wives, loaf/loaves  
leaf/leaves  
(except: chief/chiefs, chef/chefs, roof/roofs )

Write the plural of the following:

inch \_\_\_\_\_ box \_\_\_\_\_ life \_\_\_\_\_  
 baby \_\_\_\_\_ dish \_\_\_\_\_ party \_\_\_\_\_  
 bunch \_\_\_\_\_ boss \_\_\_\_\_ ring \_\_\_\_\_  
 knife \_\_\_\_\_ church \_\_\_\_\_ calf \_\_\_\_\_  
 tax \_\_\_\_\_ sock \_\_\_\_\_ stitch \_\_\_\_\_

# The Distance Learner

Edition 11. October 2014

## Malala



Pic, courtesy www.unfoundation.org

This month, 17 year old Malala Yousafzai became the youngest ever winner of the Nobel Peace Prize. The young schoolgirl from Pakistan spoke out against the Taliban when they **refused** to allow girls to attend school. The "Taliban", who are a **political** party who enforce strict Islam law, burned down most of the girls' schools in Pakistan.

Malala wrote a diary which was **published** by the BBC online, about what life was like for young girls under the Taliban rule in Pakistan. She gave **interviews** to the papers and on radio on the rights of women to have an **education**.

In 2012, while she was **travelling** on a bus, Taliban gunmen stopped the bus and shot Malala twice in the head and face. Her injuries were so terrible that she had to be flown to a hospital in England for major surgery. She remained in hospital for over 3 months.

This **attempt** on her life brought her worldwide attention and protests were held all over Pakistan. The **government** were forced to give back the right to education to girls and the men who shot her were **arrested**.

Since then Malala has been named as one of the world's bravest people. She has spoken before the United Nations where she called on them to ensure the right to education for children all over the world. She has met with Queen Elizabeth and US president Barack Obama and she has received many awards from all over the world.

Malala **continues** to seek rights for women and children. She is still a schoolgirl attending school in Birmingham in England where she and her family now live.

### Exercises

1. Some of the bigger words in the story have been broken down into syllables or parts to make them easier to read and spell.

Word	breakdown	Number of syllables
refused	re fused	2
political	po lit ic al	4
published	pub lished	2
interviews	in ter views	3
education	ed u ca tion	4
travelling	trav ell ing	3
attempt	att empt	2
government	gov ern ment	3
arrested	arr est ed	3
continues	con tin ues	3

When you are learning to spell a new word try using these tips:

- Look at the word and break it down into parts
- Say each part slowly a few times
- Cover the word
- Write down each part as you say them
- Check to see if you have the correct spelling

2. When you have read the news story, answer these questions.

- In what country did Malala live as a young girl?
- What did the Taliban not allow girls to do?
- What terrible event happened to Malala in 2012?
- Why do you think she has been called one of the bravest people in the world?
- Name one famous person Malala has met?
- What prize was she given earlier this month?
- Where does Malala now live?

3. Match the words that have the same meaning

- enforce . try
- interviews . printed
- attempt . forced to do things
- protests . conversations
- arrested . taken by the police
- published . speaks out against

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## Sister Ethel



Co Clare born Ethel Normoyle is a **religious** sister with the "Little Company of Mary".

After training as a nurse, almost 50 years ago, she was sent to South Africa, to work among the black **population** in the city of Pretoria.

At the time, South Africa was a country of **apartheid** (this is when the law does not allow black and white people to mix). Because of this, white South Africans made life hard for her. Once she was spat at as she carried a black child to the hospital. Another time the police arrested her and left her miles from the city, hoping she would not find her way back.

Outside the city of Port Elizabeth in South Africa is a township called Missionvale, (a township is an area where black people live separated from white people, often in very bad conditions). There is a lot of **unemployment** here and 60% of its **population** including children has HIV/AIDS.

Ethel was shocked by the living **conditions**, she saw here. There was no hospital, no school and many people were dying from disease. The people lived in rows of timber shacks with flat roofs made of tin with no water or toilets.

Each day in intense heat, Ethel walked the 45 minute journey from the city to Missionvale. There, on her own, under the shade of a tree she began giving out **medicine** to the sick. She started teaching the children to read and write. Little by little they began to trust her.

Ethel knew there would be no money from the **government** to help them. She heard about a rich businessman in the city and begged him to help.

He was so taken by her **determination** that he gave her the money to build 3 small rooms for a clinic and a classroom.

She wrote to family and friends in Ireland who raised money and sent it to her.

Since 2008 groups of builders and other volunteers have travelled over from Ireland to help Ethel with her building **projects**. So far they have built a hospital, school, community hall and a hospice. They have helped the locals start a garden where they can grow crops. They have shown them ways of collecting rain water, which is very scarce in a hot country like South Africa.

Today, 25 years later, Ethel, a small woman with a big heart, continues to change the lives of people in Missionvale. There is still sickness and people still are poor but now with education and health care, they have hope for a better future for their children.

### Exercises

1. If you would like to read more about Sr. Ethel and her work visit the website [www.missionvaleireland.org](http://www.missionvaleireland.org)

2. Some of the bigger words in the story have been broken down into syllables or parts to make them easier to read and spell

word	Breakdown	no. of parts
religious	re li gious	3
population	pop u la tion	4
apartheid	a part heid	3
unemployment	un em ploy ment	4
conditions	con di tions	3
medicine	med i cine	3
government	gov ern ment	3
determination	de ter min a tion	5
volunteers	vol un teers	3
projects	pro jects	2



Dear Reader

We hope you enjoy reading our monthly worksheet, "The Distance Learner" which has been running now for a year.

Thank you to everyone who has sent us some nice comments and ideas.

We would like to invite you all to enter our Christmas competition. The closing date for which will be January 20<sup>th</sup> 2015.

We wish you all a very happy Christmas and may 2015 be a good year for you all.

Kind regards

NALA Distance Learning Team



## Competition

If you would like to be in with a chance to win a €25 book voucher,  
please answer this question.

**Where in Ireland was Sister Ethel born?**

Please send answer and your name  
by Text/phone to 087 1984228  
or

by Email to [dlsnala@nala.ie](mailto:dlsnala@nala.ie)

Closing date is January 20<sup>th</sup> 2015

All correct answers will be placed in the draw